



The Journal OF THE *House of Representatives*

Number 2

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Messages from the Senate

The Honorable Larry Cretul, Speaker

I am directed to inform the House of Representatives that the Senate has passed SB 176, as amended, and requests the concurrence of the House.

R. Philip Twogood, Secretary

By Senator Wise—

SB 176—A bill to be entitled An act relating to road designations; designating the James E. “Jim” King, Jr., Parkway, the Hans G. Tanzler, Jr., Interstate, and the Don Davis Memorial Interchange in Duval County; directing the Department of Transportation to erect suitable markers; providing an effective date.

—was read the first time by title and referred to the Calendar of the House.

The Honorable Larry Cretul, Speaker

I am directed to inform the House of Representatives that the Senate has passed SB 1780, and requests the concurrence of the House.

R. Philip Twogood, Secretary

By Senator Villalobos—

SB 1780—A bill to be entitled An act relating to the official Florida Statutes; amending ss. 11.2421, 11.2422, 11.2424, and 11.2425, F.S.; adopting the Florida Statutes 2010 and designating the portions thereof that are to constitute the official law of the state; providing that the Florida Statutes 2010 shall be effective immediately upon publication; providing that general laws enacted during the 2009 regular session and prior thereto and not included in the Florida Statutes 2010 are repealed; providing that general laws enacted during the December 3-8, 2009, special session and the 2010 regular session are not repealed by this adoption act; providing an effective date.

—was read the first time by title and referred to the Calendar of the House.

The Honorable Larry Cretul, Speaker

I am directed to inform the House of Representatives that the Senate has passed SB 1782, and requests the concurrence of the House.

R. Philip Twogood, Secretary

By Senator Villalobos—

SB 1782—A reviser’s bill to be entitled An act relating to the Florida Statutes; repealing ss. 110.1099(1)(b), 112.061(16), 212.031(10), 215.559(8), 220.183(1)(h), 253.01(3), 253.034(13), 287.057(14)(b), 373.1961(5) and (6), 373.472(1)(b), 375.041(3)(b), 379.201(3), 379.204(3), 379.206(3), 403.7095(8), 403.890(3), 408.036(1)(g), 624.5105(6), 733.702(5), and 985.0395, F.S.; and amending ss. 212.031(1)(a), 212.08(5)(p), and 380.06(19)(e); to delete provisions which have become inoperative by noncurrent repeal or expiration and, pursuant to s. 11.242(5)(b) and (i), may be omitted from the 2010 Florida Statutes only through a reviser’s bill duly enacted by the Legislature; providing an effective date.

—was read the first time by title and referred to the Calendar of the House.

The Honorable Larry Cretul, Speaker

I am directed to inform the House of Representatives that the Senate has passed SB 1784, and requests the concurrence of the House.

R. Philip Twogood, Secretary

By Senator Villalobos—

SB 1784—A reviser’s bill to be entitled An act relating to the Florida Statutes; amending ss. 7.06, 11.45, 17.0315, 112.354, 112.361, 112.363, 120.55, 121.053, 121.081, 121.091, 163.31771, 163.3180, 175.071, 185.06, 192.001, 192.0105, 193.1555, 193.503, 193.703, 196.011, 196.075, 196.1975, 196.1977, 197.402, 200.069, 210.1801, 211.06, 212.098, 215.211, 238.07, 238.071, 238.09, 255.043, 260.019, 265.2865, 265.32, 265.606, 265.701, 282.201, 282.204, 282.318, 282.702, 288.012, 288.021, 288.0656, 288.1081, 288.1169, 288.1224, 311.12, 311.121, 311.122, 318.18, 318.21, 321.02, 322.271, 327.73, 334.044, 337.0261, 337.16, 338.235, 365.172, 373.046, 373.236, 376.30713, 377.709, 380.06, 394.875, 394.9082, 395.4036, 397.311, 397.334, 400.141, 400.474, 403.0872, 403.93345, 403.9336, 408.0361, 408.05, 408.820, 409.816, 409.908, 409.911, 409.912, 409.91211, 420.628, 430.04, 440.105, 443.1117, 445.049, 450.231, 456.041, 466.0067, 472.016, 472.036, 473.315, 489.119, 494.00321, 494.00611, 494.0066, 501.1377, 517.191, 526.144, 556.105, 569.19, 589.011, 627.062, 627.351, 733.817, 817.36, 921.002, 934.02, 1002.335, 1003.57, 1004.87, 1011.71, and 1011.73, F.S.; reenacting ss. 120.52, 381.84(6), 409.905(5), 624.91(6), and 1013.45(1), F.S.; and repealing ss. 28.39, 34.205, 39.4086, 282.5001, 282.5002, 282.5003, 282.5004, 282.5005, 282.5006, 282.5007, 282.5008, 322.181, 381.912, 382.357, 400.195, and 576.092, F.S., pursuant to s. 11.242, F.S.; deleting provisions that have expired, have become obsolete, have had their effect, have served their purpose, or have been impliedly repealed or superseded; replacing incorrect cross-references and citations; correcting grammatical, typographical, and like errors; removing inconsistencies, redundancies, and unnecessary repetition in the statutes; improving the clarity of the statutes and facilitating their correct interpretation; and confirming the restoration of provisions unintentionally

omitted from republication in the acts of the Legislature during the amendatory process; providing an effective date.

—was read the first time by title and referred to the Calendar of the House.

Introduction and Reference

By the Full Appropriations Council on Education & Economic Development; Representative Rivera—

HB 7071—A bill to be entitled An act relating to repealing budget provisions; amending s. 216.023, F.S.; deleting certain budget summary requirements; repealing s. 339.1371, F.S., relating to Mobility 2000 funding; amending ss. 216.013, 287.0574, and 489.145, F.S.; conforming cross-references; providing an effective date.

First reading by publication (Art. III, s. 7, Florida Constitution).

Referred to the Calendar of the House.

By the Health Care Regulation Policy Committee; Representative N. Thompson—

HB 7073—A bill to be entitled An act relating to obsolete health care provisions; repealing s. 381.0091, F.S., relating to the designation of separate restrooms and separate dressing rooms for males and females; repealing s. 381.736, F.S., relating to the Florida Healthy People 2010 Program; repealing ss. 408.90-408.908, F.S., relating to the MedAccess program within the Agency for Health Care Administration; providing an effective date.

First reading by publication (Art. III, s. 7, Florida Constitution).

Referred to the Calendar of the House.

By the Health Care Services Policy Committee; Representative Kreegel—

HB 7075—A bill to be entitled An act relating to health and human services; repealing s. 39.0015, relating to child abuse prevention training in the district school system; repealing s. 39.305, F.S., relating to the development by the Department of Children and Family Services of a model plan for community intervention and treatment in intrafamily sexual abuse cases; repealing s. 39.4086, F.S., relating to a pilot program for attorneys ad litem for dependent children in the Ninth Judicial Circuit; repealing s. 39.816, F.S., relating to authorization for pilot and demonstration projects; repealing s. 39.817, F.S., relating to a foster care privatization demonstration pilot project; repealing s. 383.0115, F.S., relating to the Commission on Marriage and Family Support Initiatives; repealing s. 393.22, F.S., relating to financial commitment to community services programs; repealing s. 393.503, F.S., relating to respite and family care subsidy expenditures and funding recommendations; repealing s. 402.3045, F.S., relating to a requirement that the Department of Children and Family Services adopt distinguishable definitions of child care programs by rule; repealing s. 402.50, F.S., relating to the development of administrative infrastructure standards by the Department of Children and Family Services; repealing s. 409.1673, F.S., relating to legislative findings regarding the foster care system and the development of alternate care plans; repealing s. 409.1685, F.S., relating to an annual report to the Legislature by the Department of Children and Family Services with respect to children in foster care; repealing ss. 409.801 and 409.802, F.S., relating to the Family Policy Act; repealing s. 409.803, F.S., relating to pilot programs to provide shelter and foster care services to dependent children; amending ss. 39.3031, 390.01114, and 753.03, F.S.; conforming references to changes made by the act; providing an effective date.

First reading by publication (Art. III, s. 7, Florida Constitution).

Referred to the Calendar of the House.

First Reading of Council and Committee Substitutes by Publication

By the Public Safety & Domestic Security Policy Committee; Representatives Weinstein, Bullard, Porth, and Sachs—

CS/HB 23—A bill to be entitled An act relating to parole for adolescent offenders; providing a short title; amending s. 947.16, F.S.; providing definitions; providing that an adolescent offender who was 15 years of age or younger at the time of commission of an offense and who is sentenced to life or a single or cumulative term of 10 years or more in prison is eligible for parole if the offender has been incarcerated for a minimum period, has not previously been convicted of or adjudicated delinquent for certain offenses, and did not commit an act of violence or threaten to commit an act of violence during the commission of the current offense; requiring an initial eligibility interview to determine whether the adolescent offender has been sufficiently rehabilitated for parole; providing criteria to determine sufficient rehabilitation; providing eligibility for a reinterview after a specified period for adolescent offenders denied parole; providing that the adolescent offender be incarcerated in a facility that has a GED program; providing that if the adolescent offender is granted parole, the adolescent offender must participate in any available reentry program for 2 years; defining the term "reentry program"; providing priority for certain programs; providing for eligibility for an initial eligibility interview for offenders in their eighth or subsequent year of incarceration on the effective date of the act; providing for retroactive application; providing an effective date.

First reading by publication (Art. III, s. 7, Florida Constitution).

By the Criminal & Civil Justice Policy Council; and Health Care Services Policy Committee; Representatives Glorioso, Bullard, Gibson, and Horner—

CS/CS/HB 25—A bill to be entitled An act relating to temporary and concurrent custody of a child; amending s. 61.13002, F.S.; providing that a parent activated, deployed, or temporarily assigned to military service on orders in excess of a specified period may designate a person or persons to exercise time-sharing with the child on the parent's behalf; limiting who may be designated; providing for limited objections by the other parent; providing for expedited hearings; requiring a servicemember and a nonmilitary parent to cooperate with each other to resolve issues; requiring information sharing; providing for agreements for persons to exercise time-sharing on a parent's behalf; providing for expedited hearings to enforce time-sharing rights; revising ch. 751, F.S., relating to petitions and court orders awarding the temporary custody of a child to an extended family member, to also provide for concurrent custody with the parents of the child; amending s. 751.01, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 751.011, F.S.; revising definitions; defining the term "concurrent custody"; amending s. 751.02, F.S.; providing requirements for concurrent custody; amending s. 751.03, F.S.; revising the petition for concurrent custody to require additional information; amending s. 751.04, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 751.05, F.S.; providing that if a parent objects to a petition for concurrent custody, the court may not grant the petition and must give the petitioner the option of converting the petition to one for temporary custody; providing for dismissal of the petition; providing that an order granting concurrent custody does not affect the ability of the parents to obtain the physical custody of the child at any time; providing for the court to terminate an order for concurrent custody if either or both parents object to the order; providing for filing for temporary custody if an order for concurrent custody has been terminated; providing for the court to modify an existing child support order; amending s. 49.011, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; providing an effective date.

First reading by publication (Art. III, s. 7, Florida Constitution).

By the Health & Family Services Policy Council; Representative Renuart—

CS/HB 871—A bill to be entitled An act relating to the Family Builders Program; repealing ss. 39.311-39.318, F.S., relating to the Family Builders Program, to terminate the program; amending ss. 39.0121 and 39.301, F.S.; deleting references to conform; providing an effective date.

First reading by publication (Art. III, s. 7, Florida Constitution).

By the Health & Family Services Policy Council; Representative Adkins—

CS/HB 889—A bill to be entitled An act relating to biomedical research; repealing s. 381.0404, F.S., relating to the Center for Health Technologies; repealing s. 381.85, F.S., relating to the Florida Biomedical and Social Research Act; amending s. 381.855, F.S., relating to the Florida Center for Universal Research to Eradicate Disease; revising advisory council membership to conform to changes made by the act; repealing s. 381.912, F.S., relating to the Cervical Cancer Elimination Task Force; repealing s. 381.92, F.S., relating to the Florida Cancer Council; transferring and amending s. 381.921, F.S., relating to Florida Cancer Council mission and duties to conform to changes made by the act; amending s. 381.922, F.S., relating to the William G. "Bill" Bankhead, Jr., and David Coley Cancer Research Program, to conform to changes made by the act; providing an effective date.

First reading by publication (Art. III, s. 7, Florida Constitution).

Reference

CS/HB 513—Referred to the Military & Local Affairs Policy Committee and Criminal & Civil Justice Policy Council.

CS/HB 871—Referred to the Calendar of the House.

CS/HB 889—Referred to the Calendar of the House.

HB 1179—Referred to the Civil Justice & Courts Policy Committee; Governmental Affairs Policy Committee; and Criminal & Civil Justice Policy Council.

HB 1181—Referred to the Insurance, Business & Financial Affairs Policy Committee; Government Operations Appropriations Committee; and General Government Policy Council.

HB 1183—Referred to the PreK-12 Policy Committee; Full Appropriations Council on Education & Economic Development; and Education Policy Council.

HB 1187—Referred to the Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council; Rules & Calendar Council; and Policy Council.

HB 1189—Referred to the Health Care Services Policy Committee; Public Safety & Domestic Security Policy Committee; Health Care Appropriations Committee; and Health & Family Services Policy Council.

HB 1191—Referred to the Insurance, Business & Financial Affairs Policy Committee; Health Care Regulation Policy Committee; and General Government Policy Council.

HB 1193—Referred to the Governmental Affairs Policy Committee; Government Operations Appropriations Committee; and Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council.

HB 1195—Referred to the Roads, Bridges & Ports Policy Committee; Transportation & Economic Development Appropriations Committee; and Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council.

HB 1197—Referred to the Finance & Tax Council; Policy Council; and Full Appropriations Council on Education & Economic Development.

HB 1199—Referred to the Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council; Rules & Calendar Council; and Policy Council.

HB 1201—Referred to the Governmental Affairs Policy Committee; Rules & Calendar Council; and Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council.

HB 1203—Referred to the PreK-12 Policy Committee; Health Care Services Policy Committee; Full Appropriations Council on Education & Economic Development; and Education Policy Council.

HB 1205—Referred to the Military & Local Affairs Policy Committee and Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council.

HB 1209—Referred to the Military & Local Affairs Policy Committee; Finance & Tax Council; and Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council.

HB 1211—Referred to the Governmental Affairs Policy Committee; Policy Council; and Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council.

HB 1213—Referred to the Health Care Services Policy Committee; Public Safety & Domestic Security Policy Committee; Health Care Appropriations Committee; and Health & Family Services Policy Council.

HB 1215—Referred to the Military & Local Affairs Policy Committee and Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council.

HB 1217—Referred to the Energy & Utilities Policy Committee; Government Operations Appropriations Committee; and General Government Policy Council.

HB 1219—Referred to the Insurance, Business & Financial Affairs Policy Committee; Government Operations Appropriations Committee; and General Government Policy Council.

HB 1221—Referred to the Agriculture & Natural Resources Policy Committee; Military & Local Affairs Policy Committee; Finance & Tax Council; and General Government Policy Council.

HB 1223—Referred to the PreK-12 Policy Committee; State Universities & Private Colleges Policy Committee; State Universities & Private Colleges Appropriations Committee; and Education Policy Council.

HB 1225—Referred to the Agriculture & Natural Resources Policy Committee; Natural Resources Appropriations Committee; and General Government Policy Council.

HB 1227—Referred to the Military & Local Affairs Policy Committee; Health Care Services Policy Committee; Finance & Tax Council; and Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council.

HB 1229—Referred to the Economic Development Policy Committee; Transportation & Economic Development Appropriations Committee; and Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council.

HB 1231—Referred to the Governmental Affairs Policy Committee; Full Appropriations Council on Education & Economic Development; and Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council.

HB 1233—Referred to the PreK-12 Appropriations Committee; PreK-12 Policy Committee; and Full Appropriations Council on Education & Economic Development.

HB 1235—Referred to the Governmental Affairs Policy Committee; Military & Local Affairs Policy Committee; and Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council.

HB 1237—Referred to the Civil Justice & Courts Policy Committee; Insurance, Business & Financial Affairs Policy Committee; and Criminal & Civil Justice Policy Council.

HB 1239—Referred to the Agriculture & Natural Resources Policy Committee; Natural Resources Appropriations Committee; and General Government Policy Council.

HB 1241—Referred to the Economic Development Policy Committee; Finance & Tax Council; and Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council.

HB 1243—Referred to the State Universities & Private Colleges Appropriations Committee; State Universities & Private Colleges Policy Committee; and Full Appropriations Council on Education & Economic Development.

HB 1245—Referred to the Public Safety & Domestic Security Policy Committee; Criminal & Civil Justice Appropriations Committee; and Criminal & Civil Justice Policy Council.

HB 1247—Referred to the Military & Local Affairs Policy Committee; Insurance, Business & Financial Affairs Policy Committee; and Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council.

HB 1249—Referred to the Military & Local Affairs Policy Committee and Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council.

HB 1251—Referred to the Governmental Affairs Policy Committee; Government Operations Appropriations Committee; and Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council.

HB 1253—Referred to the Insurance, Business & Financial Affairs Policy Committee; Elder & Family Services Policy Committee; Full Appropriations Council on Education & Economic Development; and General Government Policy Council.

HB 1255—Referred to the PreK-12 Policy Committee; Policy Council; and Education Policy Council.

HB 1257—Referred to the Military & Local Affairs Policy Committee and Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council.

HB 1259—Referred to the Health Care Regulation Policy Committee; Health Care Appropriations Committee; and Health & Family Services Policy Council.

HB 1263—Referred to the Health Care Regulation Policy Committee; Health Care Appropriations Committee; and Health & Family Services Policy Council.

HJR 1265—Referred to the Education Policy Council; Policy Council; and Rules & Calendar Council.

HB 1267—Referred to the Energy & Utilities Policy Committee; Full Appropriations Council on Education & Economic Development; and General Government Policy Council.

HB 1269—Referred to the Energy & Utilities Policy Committee; Full Appropriations Council on Education & Economic Development; and General Government Policy Council.

HB 1271—Referred to the Roads, Bridges & Ports Policy Committee; Transportation & Economic Development Appropriations Committee; and Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council.

HM 1273—Referred to the Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council; Rules & Calendar Council; and Policy Council.

HB 1275—Referred to the Roads, Bridges & Ports Policy Committee; Transportation & Economic Development Appropriations Committee; and Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council.

HB 1277—Referred to the Insurance, Business & Financial Affairs Policy Committee; Policy Council; and General Government Policy Council.

HB 1279—Referred to the Military & Local Affairs Policy Committee; Finance & Tax Council; and Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council.

HB 1281—Referred to the Insurance, Business & Financial Affairs Policy Committee; Government Operations Appropriations Committee; and General Government Policy Council.

HB 1283—Referred to the Health Care Regulation Policy Committee; Health Care Appropriations Committee; and Health & Family Services Policy Council.

HB 1285—Referred to the Agriculture & Natural Resources Policy Committee; Public Safety & Domestic Security Policy Committee; Full Appropriations Council on Education & Economic Development; and General Government Policy Council.

HB 1287—Referred to the PreK-12 Policy Committee; PreK-12 Appropriations Committee; and Education Policy Council.

HB 1289—Referred to the Public Safety & Domestic Security Policy Committee; Criminal & Civil Justice Appropriations Committee; and Criminal & Civil Justice Policy Council.

HB 1291—Referred to the Public Safety & Domestic Security Policy Committee; Health Care Services Policy Committee; and Criminal & Civil Justice Policy Council.

HB 1293—Referred to the Health Care Services Policy Committee; Health Care Appropriations Committee; and Health & Family Services Policy Council.

HB 1295—Referred to the Military & Local Affairs Policy Committee; Finance & Tax Council; and Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council.

HB 1297—Referred to the Roads, Bridges & Ports Policy Committee; Transportation & Economic Development Appropriations Committee; and Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council.

HB 1299—Referred to the Insurance, Business & Financial Affairs Policy Committee; Full Appropriations Council on Education & Economic Development; and General Government Policy Council.

HB 1301—Referred to the Military & Local Affairs Policy Committee; Public Safety & Domestic Security Policy Committee; and Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council.

HB 1303—Referred to the Civil Justice & Courts Policy Committee and Military & Local Affairs Policy Committee.

HB 1305—Referred to the Governmental Affairs Policy Committee; Full Appropriations Council on Education & Economic Development; and Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council.

HB 1307—Referred to the Governmental Affairs Policy Committee; Government Operations Appropriations Committee; and Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council.

HB 1311—Referred to the Governmental Affairs Policy Committee; Government Operations Appropriations Committee; and Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council.

HB 1313—Referred to the Governmental Affairs Policy Committee; Policy Council; and Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council.

HB 1315—Referred to the Governmental Affairs Policy Committee; Full Appropriations Council on Education & Economic Development; and Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council.

HB 1317—Referred to the Civil Justice & Courts Policy Committee; Insurance, Business & Financial Affairs Policy Committee; and Criminal & Civil Justice Policy Council.

HB 1319—Referred to the Governmental Affairs Policy Committee; Government Operations Appropriations Committee; Finance & Tax Council; and Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council.

HB 1321—Referred to the Economic Development Policy Committee; Finance & Tax Council; and Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council.

HB 1323—Referred to the Public Safety & Domestic Security Policy Committee; Criminal & Civil Justice Appropriations Committee; and Criminal & Civil Justice Policy Council.

HB 1325—Referred to the Agriculture & Natural Resources Policy Committee; Natural Resources Appropriations Committee; and General Government Policy Council.

HB 1327—Referred to the Health Care Services Policy Committee; Public Safety & Domestic Security Policy Committee; Health Care Appropriations Committee; and Health & Family Services Policy Council.

HJR 1329—Referred to the Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council; Finance & Tax Council; and Rules & Calendar Council.

HB 1331—Referred to the Roads, Bridges & Ports Policy Committee; Transportation & Economic Development Appropriations Committee; and Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council.

HB 1333—Referred to the Insurance, Business & Financial Affairs Policy Committee; Finance & Tax Council; and General Government Policy Council.

HB 1335—Referred to the Public Safety & Domestic Security Policy Committee; Criminal & Civil Justice Appropriations Committee; and Criminal & Civil Justice Policy Council.

HB 1337—Referred to the State Universities & Private Colleges Policy Committee; Health Care Regulation Policy Committee; Full Appropriations Council on Education & Economic Development; and Education Policy Council.

HB 1339—Referred to the Agriculture & Natural Resources Policy Committee; Natural Resources Appropriations Committee; and General Government Policy Council.

HB 1341—Referred to the Insurance, Business & Financial Affairs Policy Committee; Government Operations Appropriations Committee; and General Government Policy Council.

Cosponsors

HB 7—Anderson, Chestnut, Culp, Troutman

HB 9—Flores, Jenne

HB 81—Reed

HB 93—Nehr, Planas

HB 99—Kriseman

HB 121—Nehr, Planas

HB 133—Burgin, Chestnut, Kreegel, Nehr, Planas, Porth

HB 169—Chestnut, Nehr, Randolph, Reed, Rouson

HB 245—Abruzzo

HB 251—Homan, Renuart

HB 255—Brisé

CS/HB 289—Ford, Kriseman, Nehr

CS/HB 341—Hooper

HB 421—McBurney

HB 451—Burgin, Chestnut, Hudson, Nehr, Planas

HB 461—Bullard, Burgin

HM 481—Burgin, Nehr, Planas, Porth

CS/HB 513—Brisé

HB 517—Chestnut, Fitzgerald, Nehr, Rouson

HB 523—Braynon, Bullard, Ford, Jones, Nehr, Pafford, Reed, Rouson, Steinberg

CS/HM 553—Ford

HB 555—Anderson, Chestnut, Culp, Troutman

CS/HB 561—Frishe, Sands

HB 607—Burgin, Kelly, Nehr, Planas, Porth

HB 651—Burgin, Crisafulli

HB 665—Zapata

HB 671—Homan

HB 689—Tobia

HB 697—Y. Roberson

HB 701—Murzin

HB 783—Anderson, Chestnut, Culp, Renuart, Troutman

HB 969—Burgin, Chestnut, Kreegel, Nehr, Planas, Porth, Tobia

HB 997—Bullard

HB 1093—Braynon

HB 1097—Drake

HB 1113—Evers

HB 1157—Kelly, Van Zant

HM 1187—Burgin, Galvano

HM 1199—Burgin, Nehr, Planas

HB 1233—Kiar

HB 1259—McBurney

HJR 1265—Bovo, Van Zant, Zapata

HB 1283—Brisé

HM 1351—Plakon

HB 1389—Burgin, Chestnut, Kreegel, Nehr, Planas, Porth, Tobia

HB 1391—Chestnut, Kreegel, Nehr, Planas, Porth, Tobia

HJR 1399—Dorworth, Ford, Plakon

HB 1439—Bullard

HB 1455—Zapata

HB 1457—Burgin

HM 1459—Bullard, Nehr, Steinberg

HB 1513—Abruzzo, Adkins, Bernard, Nehr

HB 1517—Ford

HB 1531—Pafford

HB 1537—Adkins

HB 1539—Burgin, Chestnut, Nehr, Planas

HR 1561—Adams

HB 1587—Porth

CS/HB 7033—Burgin, Cannon, Ford

HCR 8003—Braynon

The above committee substitute was transmitted to the Office of the Speaker, subject to referral under Rule 7.20. Under the rule, HB 23 was laid on the table.

The Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council reported the following favorably:
CS/HB 83

The above committee substitute was placed on the Calendar of the House.

The Civil Justice & Courts Policy Committee reported the following unfavorably:
HB 125

The above bill was laid on the table.

The Military & Local Affairs Policy Committee reported the following favorably:
CS/HB 199

The above committee substitute was transmitted to the next council or committee of reference, the Natural Resources Appropriations Committee.

The Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council reported the following favorably:
CS/HB 263

The above committee substitute was placed on the Calendar of the House.

The Policy Council reported the following favorably:
CS/HB 277

The above committee substitute was transmitted to the next council or committee of reference, the Criminal & Civil Justice Policy Council.

The Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council reported the following favorably:
CS/HB 289

The above committee substitute was placed on the Calendar of the House.

The Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council reported the following favorably:
HJR 313

The above joint resolution was transmitted to the next council or committee of reference, the Rules & Calendar Council.

The Military & Local Affairs Policy Committee reported the following favorably:
HB 521

The above bill was transmitted to the next council or committee of reference, the Education Policy Council.

The General Government Policy Council reported the following favorably:
HB 545

The above bill was placed on the Calendar of the House.

The Policy Council reported the following favorably:
HB 709

The above bill was transmitted to the next council or committee of reference, the Natural Resources Appropriations Committee.

Reports of Standing Councils and Committees

Received March 2:

The Criminal & Civil Justice Policy Council reported the following favorably:

CS/HB 25 with council substitute

The above council substitute was transmitted to the Office of the Speaker, subject to referral under Rule 7.20. Under the rule, CS/HB 25 was laid on the table.

Received March 3:

The Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council reported the following favorably:
HB 5

The above bill was placed on the Calendar of the House.

The Public Safety & Domestic Security Policy Committee reported the following favorably:

HB 23 with committee substitute

The Policy Council reported the following favorably:
HB 731

The above bill was transmitted to the next council or committee of reference, the Criminal & Civil Justice Policy Council.

The Military & Local Affairs Policy Committee reported the following favorably:
HB 859

The above bill was transmitted to the next council or committee of reference, the Government Operations Appropriations Committee.

The Health & Family Services Policy Council reported the following favorably:
HB 889 with council substitute

The above council substitute was transmitted to the Office of the Speaker, subject to referral under Rule 7.20. Under the rule, HB 889 was laid on the table.

The General Government Policy Council reported the following favorably:
HB 909

The above bill was placed on the Calendar of the House.

The Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council reported the following favorably:
HB 915

The above bill was placed on the Calendar of the House.

The Military & Local Affairs Policy Committee reported the following favorably:
HB 937

The above bill was transmitted to the next council or committee of reference, the Government Operations Appropriations Committee.

The General Government Policy Council reported the following favorably:
HB 1013

The above bill was placed on the Calendar of the House.

The General Government Policy Council reported the following favorably:
HB 1015

The above bill was placed on the Calendar of the House.

The Military & Local Affairs Policy Committee reported the following favorably:
HB 1049

The above bill was transmitted to the next council or committee of reference, the Insurance, Business & Financial Affairs Policy Committee.

The Military & Local Affairs Policy Committee reported the following favorably:
HB 1051

The above bill was transmitted to the next council or committee of reference, the Insurance, Business & Financial Affairs Policy Committee.

The Military & Local Affairs Policy Committee reported the following favorably:
HB 1055

The above bill was transmitted to the next council or committee of reference, the Public Safety & Domestic Security Policy Committee.

The Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council reported the following favorably:
HB 1017

The above bill was placed on the Calendar of the House.

JOINT SESSION

(March 2, 2010)

Pursuant to SCR 6000, the members of the Senate, escorted by the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate and the Sergeant at Arms of the House, were seated in the Chamber. The President and President Pro Tempore joined the Speaker and Speaker pro tempore at the rostrum. The Secretary joined the Clerk at the front desk.

Arrival of Lieutenant Governor and Cabinet

The Honorable Jeffrey D. "Jeff" Kottkamp, Lieutenant Governor; the Honorable Alex Sink, Chief Financial Officer; the Honorable Bill McCollum, Attorney General; and the Honorable Charles H. Bronson, Commissioner of Agriculture, members of the Cabinet, were escorted into the Chamber by the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate and seated.

Arrival of Supreme Court

Justice Charles T. Canady and Justice James E.C. Perry, members of the Supreme Court, were escorted into the Chamber by the Sergeant at Arms of the House and seated.

The Speaker presented the gavel to the Honorable Jeff Atwater, President of the Senate, asking him to preside over the Joint Session.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE PRESIDING

A quorum of the Joint Session was declared present.

Prayer

The following prayer was offered by Reverend J. Sterling Forrester, retired U.S. Army Chaplain, of Bradenton, at the invitation of Rep. Galvano:

Almighty God and Father of us all, we bow in recognition of Your daily providence, and we seek Your guiding hand to direct all the proceedings of this session. We ask Your constant blessings in the lives of all who serve the state of Florida and in the lives of their families and loved ones. May the common good of all our citizens motivate both word and deed of each elected official. And if there should be honest differences in challenging issues, may there yet be always unanimity of dedication to the noble purposes of the democratic process.

In these difficult times, we seek Your divine help that both state and nation would serve the highest ideals of our heritage as Americans. Acknowledging that military conflict is a part of our daily experience, we uphold in prayer those serving the cause of freedom, some of whom in this moment are in harm's way.

And, now in both petition and affirmation, we pray: God bless the great state of Florida and God bless America. In Your holy name, we ask it. Amen.

Pledge

The members of the Joint Session, led by Senate President Pro Tempore Mike Fasano and House Speaker pro tempore Ron Reagan, pledged allegiance to the Flag.

Committee to the Governor

On motion by Rep. Porth, the President appointed Senators Diaz de la Portilla (Co-Chair), Constantine, Crist, Garcia, Lawson, Peaden, and Villalobos, and on the behalf of the Speaker, appointed Representatives Llorente (Co-Chair), Adams, Anderson, Brandenburg, Culp, Heller, Homan, Patterson, Poppell, Y. Roberson, Waldman, and Zapata as a joint committee to notify the Governor that the Legislature had assembled to receive his message. The committee retired to execute its responsibility. The committee was accompanied by the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate.

Introduction of Special Guests

President Atwater recognized the following guests: First Lady of the Florida House, Lana J. Delves Cretul [standing ovation]; First Lady of the Florida Senate, Carole Atwater [standing ovation]; and House and Senate spouses. [standing ovation]

Presentation of the Governor

Upon announcement by the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate, the committee escorted Governor Crist to the rostrum. [standing ovation]

President Atwater presented Governor Crist. [standing ovation]

Governor's Address

Governor Crist: Good evening, Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Lieutenant Governor, Madam Chief Justice, Justices of the Court, members of [the] Cabinet, honored guests, members of the House, members of the Senate and, most importantly, our fellow Floridians. Good evening to you all.

I would like to take a moment and acknowledge the woman I fell in love with as your Governor, my Carole, the First Lady of Florida. I love you, sweetheart. [applause] My mother and father are here tonight also, Dr. Charles and Nancy Crist. Mom and Dad, please stand—I love you so much. [applause] And I have three sisters—Frank. [laughter] I'll do them all at once and won't belabor this. Margaret, Elizabeth, and Cathy, I love you all so much—would you please stand, though. [applause]

This evening, more than 3,000 members of the Florida National Guard are proudly serving our country in Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan, and elsewhere. My friends, not since Allied troops trained on Florida shores nearly 70 years ago, have so many Floridians fought to protect our freedoms. On behalf of these thousands of Floridians, please welcome two members of our outstanding Florida National Guard. With us tonight is Sergeant Michael Makai. While serving in Afghanistan, his determination and selfless service were vital in the detachment's success. In addition to ensuring minimum downtime for Sentinel air defense radar, he volunteered his time assisting the medical team when a high number of casualties were brought in. Would you please stand, Sir? [applause]

Also with us tonight is Staff Sergeant Paul Ligman, a West Point graduate whose military career has spanned four decades. One month ago today, after a training exercise in preparation for his detachment's deployment to Afghanistan, a bus carrying soldiers overturned in Clay County. Staff Sergeant Ligman swiftly rescued several soldiers, in spite of his own injuries, minimizing injury and loss during this unexpected event. Sergeant Makai and Staff Sergeant Ligman, thank you for your service to this great country of ours. God bless you both. [applause]

Tonight, I also want to recognize the generous outpouring from Floridians toward our neighbors in Haiti in the wake of January's devastating earthquake. Florida immediately extended a helping hand. With us tonight is a child protective investigator for the Department of Children and Families. Born in Haiti, fluent in Creole, he was one of many who provided comfort to those arriving at the Sanford International Airport. Much to his surprise, his own

aunt walked off a plane and into his arms, answering the questions he and his family had about her very safety. Welcome tonight, Mr. Val Dambreville. [applause]

Val represents the many caring Floridians who welcomed more than 25,000 Haitian Americans, Haitian orphans, and severely wounded evacuees who fled the destruction. For the critically injured, Florida hospitals and doctors stepped up and saved lives, treating all those in need. I thank Interim Director Dave Halstead and all the professionals at the Division of Emergency Management, the Florida National Guard under the able direction of the Adjutant General, Major General Douglas Burnett, and Secretary George Sheldon and his wonderful team at the Department of Children and Families. [applause]

My friends, gathered here tonight are some of Florida's most dedicated public servants: all of you. All of you rank among the best and the brightest minds that our state has to offer. On behalf of tens of thousands of Florida employers, thank you for taking very swift action to help our economy on this opening day of the 2010 Legislative Session. Your commitment to delay a significant increase in the unemployment compensation tax has provided needed relief to Florida businesses at a time they need it most. I signed this legislation 10 minutes before I came in here today. Thank you for doing the right thing. God bless you. [applause]

We've sent a resounding message to the people and businesses of Florida: Job retention and creation is our number-one goal. I salute you and I encourage you to relish the day and what you did today. The enthusiasm you feel will prove to be a useful and precious resource during the next 59 days. For me, this is a bittersweet day, as this is my last State of the State Address as your Governor. I have immensely enjoyed working with you, and most importantly, working for the people of Florida as their Governor. There is no greater calling than to serve our fellow man—especially during difficult times—and I have been grateful for each and every day during the past three years. I will never forget my time as Governor, nor the kindness and unselfishness of those I have served alongside.

For Floridians, these are also bittersweet days. We face trying times, but we must never forget that the promise of Florida still burns brightly. When the rest of the country shivers, we bask in the warmth of our winter sun. People from around the globe are drawn to our white, sandy beaches and the endless vista of the beautiful Everglades, with rivers and water as clear as the air above them. When they seek the fulfillment of the American Dream, they see our cities pulsing with the energy of new ideas spoken in a dozen different languages. These things have been—and, my friends, will always be—the fundamental promise of Florida.

But in the last few years, the promise of bright horizons has been marred by dark clouds. The worst recession in generations brought us more than our fair share of strife. Businesses have buckled, people have lost jobs, and the abundance of financial security that we all took for granted just a few years ago seems a distant memory. But I tell you, this recession—as bad as it has been—will also be a distant memory one day. I understand that we still face tough times ahead, but the promise of our Florida remains strong—and with your help, we can make that promise even stronger.

After stalling last year, Florida's population is once again growing. The University of Florida predicts that our state will grow by 300,000 people each year for the next five years. Single family home sales in 2009 exceeded sales in 2007 and, amazingly, are above the historic average. And beginning in 2011, we anticipate most job sectors will once again grow.

We should be mindful that difficult times reveal enormous opportunities. Some of Florida's greatest corporate citizens were started in financial downturns—Burger King, Disney World, Publix. Like these great organizations, Florida can use this opportunity to gain ground on our competition—states like California and New York—in drawing businesses and talent to our state. The adversity we have faced reveals the character of our people—the character of our people—and it makes us stronger.

Shakespeare noted, with more than a little irony, "That when the sea was calm, all boats alike show'd mastership in floating." Today, we face a far more difficult test and will be judged by the mastership we show while the sea roils around us.

I have a fishing boat that I named "Freedom," and in it, I have spent many wonderful days on our beautiful Gulf and my beloved Tampa Bay. I know from experience that storms often come from nowhere. What begins as a tiny shift in the wind can, in a matter of minutes, be a squall that sends waves crashing over the gunwale. The real test of a captain is how he guides the boat through the fury of a storm. To bring the ship of our Florida safely back to harbor requires action, not rhetoric. It requires knowledge, not conjecture. And it requires composure under pressure that believes in a fairer shore somewhere beyond the dark clouds—and a belief we will return home safely.

During this session, you will debate hundreds of issues important to many Floridians. It is not only the substance of those issues that are important, it is also the attitude with which you address them. These will determine whether you have done your job well for the people of Florida—whether you are a good captain in a storm.

In our first year, we guided our state through the storm of skyrocketing property taxes and property insurance. We worked together to enact meaningful property insurance reform, and the largest tax cut in the history of Florida. Thank you for helping us get this done. [applause]

Three years later, Floridians are better off because of those insurance reforms and the diligence of Insurance Commissioner Kevin McCarty, through his rejection of unjustified insurance premium hikes. Through these actions, property insurance premiums are lower today than they were in January 2007.

Property owners were seeing double-digit percentage increases in taxes levied prior to the beginning of my administration. Now they have seen significant decreases over the past three years. Due to these tax cuts and lower values, 2009 property taxes were almost 3 billion dollars below 2007 property taxes. Senator Thad Altman, we agree that does indeed qualify as "dropping like a rock." [applause]

And we must continue to be problem solvers. We were not given the privilege of serving the good people of Florida to simply make grand pronouncements. We were given the privilege to serve, so that we can change the everyday lives of ordinary Floridians and make them better.

During these very difficult economic times, we do a disservice to the people who elected us, the people who are counting on us, to elevate ideology over problem solving. We are here to guide our ship through a storm. We are here to lead this state to that fairer shore.

How can we be problem solvers? By embracing our core principles, and having the wisdom to separate the trivial from the meaningful. And I am confident of my core principles and what is meaningful to me, and to the people of Florida. I believe that government should be smaller, not larger—and that we can envision a day when government can be half as large and twice as effective. Government must live within its means, or it will destroy our future. [applause]

I believe taxes should be lower, not higher. I believe in freedom, knowing that with it comes the duty of personal responsibility. Government has a legitimate role of protecting the most vulnerable among us, and where government is needed, it should be efficient and make a real difference.

While there is great virtue in being true to your principles, conviction must be tempered with practicality and pragmatism. Taken to an extreme, conviction becomes inflexible, even destructive. Extreme views rarely solve problems and frequently can create them. Look around the globe. Can't we agree our world would be better with less overheated rhetoric and more common sense? [applause]

My friends, you should know that our practical solutions will serve only to further inflame extremists. Take heart; know that it is we problem solvers, and not they, who will move our Florida forward. We must accept being in the arena means enduring the hecklers in the cheap seats where conviction abounds, but wisdom is not required, and nothing is either risked nor gained.

Problem solvers recognize that important achievements often require consensus, and consensus sometimes requires concession. There are times we must hold loosely to our cherished conceits, in the interest of meaningful change. We also must recognize that consensus often means all parties walk away feeling vaguely dissatisfied.

Some of America's greatest achievements resulted from this principle. As you may recall from your history lessons, in 1789, enormous controversy endangered the ratification of the first United States Constitution. The entire future of our young country dangled by a thread. Anti-federalists, some of them Founding Fathers, argued that our Constitution failed to protect individual liberty. So, James Madison proposed ten amendments, known today as our Bill of Rights—to make clear the sanctity of the individual. These amendments allowed ratification of the Constitution, completing the framework that is the underpinning of our entire history in our great nation.

Allow me to offer a modern example of where consensus could benefit the people of Florida: the Seminole gaming compact. This compact, should you approve it, potentially raises billions of dollars for the practical purpose of educating Florida's children. Some of you oppose it because you find gambling distasteful. On a personal level, you should know—I'm not a big fan of gambling either, it holds no real intrigue for me, and much like the legislative process itself, over the long run, only a fool would bet against the House. President Atwater, I feel exactly the same about the Senate. Nevertheless, I recognize that sometimes my personal biases have to get give way to a broader and more important reality. And so I consider these facts: I was elected to serve the people of Florida, not to impose upon them my personal likes and dislikes. The people of Florida very much need the money that this compact can provide for critically important services. It can be used to improve their lives in profound ways, including educating our schoolchildren. Whether we approve this compact or not, it does not alter the reality that the Seminoles are currently running a number of casinos in Florida and, in fact, have been running gaming operations for decades. And today, the citizens of Florida have received no direct financial benefit from their operations.

So, given the fact that Florida desperately needs the money, and given the fact that gambling already occurs in our state, and given that we all love freedom, doesn't it make sense to let people exercise their freedom in a way that directs money to Florida's citizens? [applause] Wouldn't it be appropriate to set aside personal biases and approve a compact that will help pay to educate Florida's schoolchildren?

Approving the compact is but one example of elevating problem solving over ideology. Another that immediately comes to mind is the federal stimulus package. So let's talk about it. The federal stimulus package was enacted last year in the hope of jump-starting a national economy that was in the dire depths of recession. The stimulus package is frequently given a 787-billion-dollar price tag. But you should know that almost 300 billion dollars of it was in the form of tax cuts to families and businesses. The remaining money was apportioned to the states. A few governors may have rather loudly condemned the stimulus money, but that did not stop any of them from quietly accepting it. [applause]

Bear in mind, that Floridians who, as a group—Floridians as a group—represent a significant part of the American tax-paying public. We will be paying for part of the stimulus package. It only follows that if we're paying for it, we should have the advantage of receiving it. [applause] So given our budget short fall, and given that Floridians were paying for part of the stimulus package, doesn't it make sense to spend our energies maximizing the benefit of that package? Isn't it our duty to advocate that Florida receive her

fair share? Isn't that more helpful to Floridians than engaging in hollow ideological posturing that achieves nothing? [applause]

This is what I mean by sticking to our core principles and not elevating ideology over real solutions. My core principles is not to raise taxes. Although there were loud calls to broadly raise taxes and keep the budget funded at a higher level, with your help, we chose instead to dramatically cut the budget and avoid devastating tax increases at a time when Floridians were already under enormous financial stress. At the same time, the members of this legislature recognized the practical need for the stimulus money. And I thank you for it. While not particularly pleasant for any of us, this step was the responsible thing to do for our people. And, I commend you for your maturity and responsibility, and the people of Florida thank you today. [applause] As we've learned from our own experience, when we focus on problem solving, we achieve extraordinary results.

In December, we came here together for the opportunity for the construction of a 21st-century rail system in Florida. This remarkable achievement will potentially create thousands of high-paying jobs and keep Florida competitive on the world stage. I appreciate your resolve and vision in making this a possibility for all Floridians. I want to also express my appreciation to Secretary Stephanie Kopelousos, the first woman to lead the Florida Department of Transportation. Stephanie, thank you. [applause]

During the last three years, my administration has focused on other economic development initiatives, as well. In mid-2008, shortly after the recession began, I created Accelerate Florida to speed up over a billion dollars in direct expenditures for public sector projects. Last week, I had the privilege of breaking ground on one of those projects: the I-595 Expressway improvements, which will relieve traffic congestion in South Florida. This 1.2-billion-dollar project uses next-generation contracting that will move it from design to ribbon-cutting in four-and-a-half years, instead of the usual 15 years. [applause] And it will create as many as 34,000 jobs in the region, and boost our economy. At the same time, I launched an initiative to cut red tape in government, and not burden businesses with unreasonable regulation. This action allows small businesses to grow faster and hire more employees.

With your help, during the first three years of my administration, we made Florida much safer for all of our citizens. You enacted the Anti-Murder Act. You improved the Jessica Lunsford Act, striking back at violent criminals and sexual predators of children. Fellow Floridians, I am happy to report that we are now seeing a decrease in violent crime. [applause] Thanks primarily to the great work of state and local law enforcement officers, and the crime-solving tools of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, our citizens are better protected than ever before. Florida's new fingerprint identification system is improving our rate of solving cold cases by 300 percent, benefiting victims hurt by previously unsolved crimes.

Three years ago, Florida had an estimated 3.8 million residents living without any health insurance. We proposed a landmark market-based option of health insurance, called Cover Florida. This program is available to almost any Floridian, offering basic coverage for about 150 dollars a month, instead of the typical 600 dollars a month. As with any private sector plan, the more extensive coverage you want, the higher the premiums. But, with so many lacking basic preventive care, Cover Florida remains a sound option for thousands of Floridians. Since I became Governor, growth in KidCare enrollment has reduced the number of uninsured children by more than 20,000, while our Florida Discount Drug Card has saved almost 251,000 Floridians 5.4 million dollars on prescription drugs. [applause]

Two years ago, I asked you to fund the next generation of mobile devices to revolutionize how we protect children in Florida's foster care system. At the time, I noted that we were better at tracking UPS packages than the children of our state. Today, case workers responsible for the safety of more than 18,500 children in foster care have begun using mobile devices, just like this one, [applause] to take pictures, record GPS coordinates, and enter case information. [The Governor displayed an electronic device.] These mobile devices will help 2,300 caseworkers spend more time with children and less

time on paperwork. Also, with your help, there are more than 10,000 fewer children in state foster care than three years ago. [applause] Frankly, your willingness to fund my request for an office of Chief Child Advocate has literally meant new lives for thousands of children. For the last two years, Florida has set records for the number of adoptions from state care—records, two years in a row.

Florida's children deserve every opportunity to succeed in life. For that reason, you passed, and I signed, legislation that provides early intervention for children with autism. Now, families dealing with autism have insurance coverage among large group carriers for important services, such as speech therapy and essential screenings that can detect autism. While we are doing a better job of ensuring the health and safety of our children, we must improve the background screenings of those who work with children, elders, and persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations. I ask you to join me in working on legislation that will ensure we verify those screening results before employees are authorized to go to work.

We have not lost sight of the fact that educating our schoolchildren is our most important investment in the future. We want to add to the accomplishments of Governor Bush and this administration by continuing to build the best public school system in America. [applause] Florida's students must be equipped to become the entrepreneurs, the engineers, the researchers, and other highly skilled talents that will fuel our future innovation economy. Over the past four years, our schools have seen their rank move from 31st, to 14th, to number 10, and now 8th in America by Education Week's Quality Count[s] report—8th in America. [applause] You know, Florida leads the nation in high school graduates taking Advanced Placement exams and is ranked 5th in the percentage of students passing those exams. [applause] Today, our graduation rate is the highest it's ever been. And we have more "A" and "B" schools than ever since we began grading them in 1999, despite tougher standards.

With us tonight is Jila Rezaie, principal of Miami Community Charter School. Under her leadership, Miami Community Charter went from being an "F" to an "A" school in one year. Congratulations to you. [applause] Congratulations to you, the faculty, the students, and their parents.

You have recognized our highest-achieving teachers by making teacher bonuses a reality. We must further reward teachers of Advanced Placement programs by increasing their rewards for success. Your 2009-2010 budget, which I was pleased to sign, saved 20,000 teacher jobs. [applause] And this year, you have already begun to look at other common-sense ways to maintain our commitment for smaller class sizes. But we must maintain our commitment to excellence, always improving the teacher skills of our teachers and making our schools more accountable for student learning. We should also expand our Tax Credit Scholarships so that more low-income parents are empowered to send their children to the schools they choose. [applause] These and other achievements have positioned us to succeed in the "Race to the Top" competition for millions of dollars in federal funds for Florida's schools. We will know the results of those efforts very soon.

After slow progress for decades, my administration hit the fast-forward button on a plan to save the Everglades. The vision of a "River of Grass," that once again flows from Lake Okeechobee to Florida Bay, is now on the horizon. Long-requested federal dollars will finally complete the Tamiami Trail project, while the bold plan to purchase thousands of acres south of the lake will help make this vision a reality. I want to thank tonight, the Department of Environmental Protection Secretary, Mike Sole, and his great team. Stand up, Secretary, and please be recognized. [applause] I recently appointed three new members to the South Florida Water Management District, and I want to thank all of them for their efforts, as well.

We have also preserved more than 638,000 acres of pristine land through our Florida Forever program since 2001. To continue our progress, I am proposing 50 million dollars towards Everglades restoration, and 50 million dollars to reinstate Florida Forever. [applause] I ask the Legislature to fund these installments for Florida's future.

While we have accomplished many important tasks during these three years, there is still much work to do. My entire administration stands ready to work with you to address the many issues we will confront over the next 59 days. Yet, there are three issues of major importance that we must address: jobs and prosperity for Floridians; continued improvements to our schools, colleges, and universities; and re-instilling confidence in the integrity of our government and the public trust. [applause]

This session, and for the remainder of my term as Governor, my strongest focus will continue to be creating new and better jobs for Floridians. While corporate productivity seems to be growing, we still long for a corresponding increase in the number of job opportunities. Your action today, to delay a substantial increase in unemployment compensation tax, is a tremendous help to business. To help even more, I ask you to create tax relief for families and businesses totaling at least 100 million dollars in tax cuts. [applause] This tax relief will help current and potential new businesses—those with the sole ability to create jobs for our citizens. As part of this effort, I ask you to bring back the sales tax holiday for ten days just before the new school year. This step will put millions back into the pockets of Florida families. They will thank you, as will Florida businesses. [applause]

We can also help by slashing red tape. We can create a business-friendly, virtual one-stop shop where entrepreneurs and business owners can easily find the information they need to open and run a business. Business-friendly, potentially job-creating proposals are something government can do—and should do—to help jump-start our economy.

Florida's economy has long relied on the twin blessings of agriculture and tourism, bringing a combined economic impact of more than 165 billion dollars to our state. These industries have served our state and our people well, and we must ensure their continued success. Yet, we must also build the next generation of Florida's economy. Innovation has built Florida's biotechnology business sector, with almost 11 percent of all biotech companies in our country. Yet, we must do more. More innovation means more businesses and more jobs for our fellow Floridians. To achieve these goals, I ask you to invest 125 million dollars to attract and grow innovation companies and the jobs they bring, as well as 10 million dollars for shovel-ready projects in the rural areas of our state.

We can also strengthen our clean energy business sector by investing 10 million dollars for solar energy rebates, as well as injecting 176 million dollars in federal funding into our economy by expanding green energy technology, including rebates for energy-efficient appliances. The historic legislation passed two years ago is creating a new energy future for Florida, where we strive to become among the top two states in the nation in terms of solar energy. We are now there. [applause] And you know, come to think of it, as the Sunshine State, we should expect nothing less.

2010 marks the 50th year of manned space flights leaving from Cape Canaveral. The shuttle fleet has almost completed its 30-year mission, leaving in question the future of nearly 7,000 Floridians affected by this change. These are truly the best and the brightest, and Florida would be ill-served if their many talents would leave our state.

I recently convened a Space Summit to chart a new course for Florida's aerospace industry. I would like to personally thank Representative Steve Crisafulli and Senator Thad Altman for sponsoring the Space Transition and Revitalization Act that will begin to marshal the resources needed to create jobs for the talented professionals affected by the federal government's disappointing change of direction. [applause] I also call on you to invest 32.6 million dollars toward the next generation of space exploration missions.

Florida is once again leading the way, and to keep the momentum moving forward, I will meet with Florida's Congressional delegation and other national leaders in Washington, D.C. later this month to explain the benefits of their

continued investment in Florida as the gateway to space. This is something that we must do.

At the same time, we should also invest 100 million dollars in our state universities in "New Florida" as a down payment to increase degree production in science, technology, engineering, math, and medicine, and strengthen Florida's future. [applause] Community and state colleges have been the workhorses of our efforts to provide access to higher education across our state. We should invest 67 million dollars to help offset the tremendous enrollment growth in these programs over the past several years. [applause]

And finally, I will keep a strong focus during this session on fighting public corruption. I have proposed measures for at least one very important public agency, the Public Service Commission, that creates more transparency and fairness in their deliberations. I believe the Commissioners should function more like judges, and we can achieve this by making sure all communications Commissioners have with those they regulate is open and transparent. [applause] It will improve the public's confidence and give those who rule over the consumers a better opportunity to do what's right.

I've also been concerned that, since becoming Governor, I have had to suspend or remove no less than 35 public officials from office. As a result, last fall, I asked our great Florida Supreme Court to impanel a statewide grand jury, and I am grateful that they have granted that request. My final request of these distinguished jurists is a timeline for the grand jury that will enable us to enact legislation that will hold public officials to a higher ethical standard and help restore the public's trust in their elected leaders. [applause]

Let me talk about trust—public trust. Each and every one of you in this room ran for office. And when you ran, you went in your communities, you knocked on doors, and you asked people to give you their vote. When you did that, you asked them to trust you. It was an important thing to do. And they gave you, by electing you, that public trust. It is precious; it is to be cherished; it is not to be squandered. A great President once said of our country, that our country and our government should be, "of the people, by the people, [and] for the people, [and that it should] not perish from the earth." That was Abraham Lincoln. That government of the people, by the people, and for the people is nothing unless it is based on fundamental trust. It is at the core of everything we do here, everything we say here. If the people cannot trust us, they won't believe anything we say. I know you believe that. I know it's important to you. And I know by passing additional legislation we will further honor the boss, the people that we work for. And thank you for doing it. [applause]

In closing, I simply remind you: this year, more than others, our achievements will be measured. Not by the passion of our rhetoric, but our ability to be problem solvers and guide the ship of our state through the economic storm that we face together. I have absolute confidence in the wisdom of the House and the Senate, in each of you here today. I love Florida, I love her with all my heart—as I know you do—and together, we can do great things for our people.

I commit to you my energy and efforts in this endeavor. It is my loss that I will not serve again with you during a legislative session, but it has been my greatest gain to have served with you at all. When I imagine Florida's future, I cannot help but see past the current troubles to the bright future that awaits us. I ask you to focus your sights there, as well. Understand that a bountiful harvest will abound from the seeds we plant today.

When the story of this session is written, I am confident it will be viewed as a unique time in Florida's history, when we set aside our minor differences to unite behind a much greater purpose placed before us—a greater good, if you will. That is the imperative of this session, and one that I know we will fulfill. And when we do, make no mistake, we can enjoy the greatest compliment of all: In a history yet to be written, we will be known as good captains in the fury of this storm.

Thank you very much. God bless each of you, and God bless our Florida.
[applause]

Following his address, Governor Crist was escorted from the Chamber by the committee.

On motion by Senator Villalobos, the Joint Session was dissolved at 6:46 p.m., and the Senators were escorted from the Chamber by the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate.

Motion

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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